

Date: 3/16/99

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

0789 '99 MAR 22 10:16

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation in the Production,
Processing, and Handling of Food

To whom it may concern:

I support the recommendation by the Center for Science
in the Public Interest regarding labeling of irradiated
foods:

"any foods, or any foods containing ingredients that
have been treated by irradiation, should be labeled with a
written statement on the principal display panel indicating
such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and
placed in close proximity to the name of the food and
accompanied by the international symbol. If the food is
unpackaged, this information should be clearly displayed on
a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is
displayed for sale."

Like other labels, irradiation labels are required by
FDA to be truthful and not misleading. I believe that the
terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation"
should be retained. Any phrase involving the word
"pasteurization" is misleading because pasteurization is an
entirely different process of rapid heating and cooling.

I recognize the radura as information regarding a
material fact of food processing. The requirement for
irradiation disclosure (both label and radura) should not
expire at any time in the future. The material fact of
processing remains. Even if some consumers become familiar
with the radura, new consumers (e.g., young people,
immigrants) will not be. The symbol should be clearly
understandable at the point of purchase for every one. If
there is no label, consumers will be misled into believing
the food has not been irradiated.

I urge you to place the comments received on the
Internet so that the public can be informed about who is
participating in this comment process.

Sincerely,

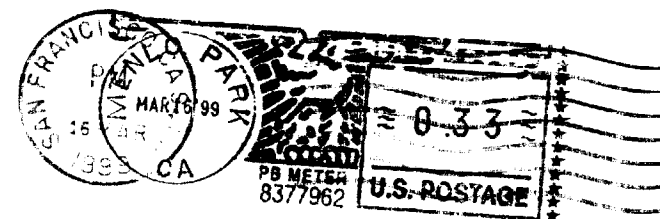


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